

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 34, 36 to 42, and 44 to 64 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17 to 19, 26, 34, 39, 42, 47, 50, and 57 are independent. Each of the independent claims has been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,926,325 (Benton) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,218 (Saito), which rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned representative during the personal interview on May 18, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner tentatively indicated that he would be inclined to more favorably view the application if the claims were amended as set forth above. The Examiner also indicated that these amendments would raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, and as such, that it would be necessary to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Accordingly, this Amendment is being filed together with an RCE.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to
our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Vadnais', is written over a horizontal line.

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